

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT **THOMAS L. BLACK**

FILE NO. **65-59181**

SECTION NO. **3**

SERIALS **76**

thru

85

NOTICE

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Emc/mh
BlFile No: 65-59181Re: Thomas L. Black

Date:

1/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
76	6/3/50	PH Teletype To HQ, NY, NK, BA	6	6	
NR	6/3/50	Copy of Above Teletype	6	6	
77	7/7/50	BA Report To HQ	10	10	
78	7/10/50	PH Letter To HQ	1	1	
79	6/16/50	BA Teletype To HQ, PH, NY with enclosed Search slip NK	1/5	1/5	
79	2/6/50	HQ Letter To P.H.	3	3	
NR	7/3/50	CE Henaich Letter To A.H. Belmont	1	0	See Bufile 65-57449
80	6/22/50	PH Letter To HQ	1	1	
80	7/7/50	HQ Letter To PH	1	1	
81	6/30/50	AAG Letter To HQ	1	0	referral to Dept.
81	7/6/50	HQ Letter To AAG	7	7	
82	7/11/50	N.H. Report To HQ	5	5	

REVIEWED BY Lnc/mb

File No: 65-59181

Re: Thomas L Black

Date: 1/28
(month/year)

[illegible]

U. S. Department of Justice

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FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

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STATION 3
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN - 3 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WAGA

WASHINGTON 9, NEW YORK 9, NEWARK 5, BALTO.2, FROM PHILA. 3
DIRECTOR AND SACS, NEW YORK AND NEWARK AND BALTIMORE - URGENT
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BLACK WAS EMPLOYED NATIONAL OIL PRODUCTS CO., HARRISON, N. J., FROM
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RECORDED - 39

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JUN 21 1950

INDEXED - 30

Van Buren

PAGE TWO

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NK PH R 5 NK JMM

BA PH R 2 BA WDC

DISC

W. Belmont

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

TELETYPE

Mr. Ladd
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Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
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Mr. Mohr
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

WASHINGTON 9, NEW YORK 9, NEWARK 5, BALTO. 2, FROM PHILA.

DIRECTOR AND SACS, NEW YORK AND NEWARK AND BALTIMORE

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YES I GOT ALL THOSE TH

NY PH R 9 NY ENL

NY PH R 5 NY JIM

BA PH R 2 BA WDC

DISC

ORIGINAL--DIRECTOR

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

BFILE NO. 65-1751

REPORT MADE AT Baltimore, Md.	DATE WHEN MADE 7-7-50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-4,5,6,16-22, 27-50	REPORT MADE BY JOSEPH C. TRAINOR : AC
TITLE THOMAS L. BLACK, was. Tasso Lessing Black, Lessing Black, "Doc"			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject unknown to WHITTAKER CHAMBERS. Records of the Dupont Co., Wilmington, Del, contain no record of an employment application for BLACK. Records of Hercules Powder Co., Wilmington, Del, reflect that WILLIAM W. STAPLER, identified as a contact of BLACK, was employed as a chemist from November, 1933, until his death 8-15-47. Background information re STAPLER set out. Check of records of Technical Library, Hercules Powder Company, revealed only two charge-out cards for period 8/31 to 9/45, which cards reflected that Hopewell Reports were charged out to STAPLER.

[REDACTED] a social acquaintance of STAPLER, advised she does not recall any unusual request made by STAPLER for files. She further advised that none of the Hopewell Reports contained any Government restricted information. Other Library employees and a Hercules Company official advise that they do not recall STAPLER's having had access to any Government classified material. Mr. and Mrs. A. STANLEY LAYERS, brother-in-law and sister of STAPLER, interviewed. They state they can furnish no information regarding STAPLER's activities or contacts.

- R U C -

APPROVED AND FORWARDED M. W. McCarley SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 65-59181-77	
COPIES DESTROYED NOV 21 1968	RECORDED - 75	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - Newark (65-4074) 3 - New York (65-15338) 3 - Philadelphia (65-4332) 1 - Washington Field - info. 3 - Baltimore	INDEXED - 75	

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BA 65-1751

DETAILS:

- AT WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND -

JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, Route 2, Westminster, self-confessed former Soviet espionage agent, was interviewed on June 4 and June 6, 1950, at which time photographs of the subject were displayed to him. Mr. CHAMBERS was unable to identify any of the photographs. He said that he does not know BLACK and has no recollection of such an individual.

- AT WILMINGTON, DELAWARE -

^{b7c} The following investigation was conducted by SA FRANK A. STANTON.

^{b7d} [REDACTED] E. I. duPont de Nemours Company, Inc., advised that no record could be located reflecting any employment application or employment for the subject under the name THOMAS L. BLACK or any of his aliases. According to [REDACTED] applications for employment filed prior to January, 1947, by persons not subsequently employed, have been destroyed. ^{b7c}
^{b7d}

Re: WILLIAM WEBB STAPLER

In an interview conducted by the Philadelphia Office, BLACK advised that pursuant to instructions from his Russian superior, he made contact with an employee of the Hercules Powder Company who had sold technical information to the Russians in the past. He stated that he believed the first name of this individual was WILLIAM, that he was a chemist by trade and that he was working as a technical man on the road; further, that WILLIAM's wife owned a home in Verona or Caldwell, New Jersey, and that he lived during the week with a sister in Wilmington, Delaware. BLACK described WILLIAM as about 45 years of age, tall, with graying hair, thick features, wore glasses. BLACK further advised that WILLIAM was a friend of the technical librarian at the Hercules Powder Company. BLACK subsequently identified WILLIAM as WILLIAM W. STAPLER.

^{b7c} ^{b7d} [REDACTED] Hercules Powder Company, Wilmington, Delaware, made available the personnel file for WILLIAM W. STAPLER which reflects that he was employed by the Hercules Powder Company in November, 1933, as a chemist at the Experiment Station in Wilmington, Delaware. From 1934 until the time of his death on August 15, 1947, STAPLER was engaged in the Technical Service Division of the Naval Stores Department of the Hercules Company, located at Wilmington.

The file reflects that STAPLER was born November 11, 1889, at Wilmington, Delaware, the son of WILLIAM WEBB STAPLER, a native of Wilmington, Delaware, and EMMA ARNOLD STAPLER, born in Harmonyville, Pennsylvania.

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STAPLER's wife is listed as ETHEL MEAD STAPLER whose birthplace is reflected as Pompton, New Jersey. Her residence, according to the file is Riverdale, Morris County, New Jersey. According to the record, the STAPLERS have one son, WILLIAM MEAD STAPLER, born November 30, 1920. The file reveals that STAPLER attended the Wilmington High School, the University of Illinois, where he obtained a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering, and the Goldey Commercial College at Wilmington, Delaware, where he took a course in stenography. The file reflected no dates for the attendance at the above-mentioned educational institutions.

Miss EDITH STAPLER, 602 Springer Street, Wilmington, Delaware, and Mrs. A. STANLEY AYERS of Wilmington, Delaware, are listed as sisters of STAPLER. STAPLER listed a temporary residence while at Wilmington, Delaware, with his sister, EDITH.

STAPLER's file does not disclose any previous employment record. His Social Security Number is 221-07-2645. STAPLER listed membership in the following clubs and organizations:

American Chemical Society
American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists
Sons of the American Revolution
Cosmopolitan Club of Montclair, N. J.

The file reflects that STAPLER reportedly died at Riverdale, New Jersey, on August 15, 1947. It indicates that he died of cancer.

The personnel file contains the following partial physical description of STAPLER: 5' 10", 149 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes. 4

b7c
b7d
[REDACTED] Hercules Powder Company, advised that WILLIAM W. STAPLER was engaged as a technical service man in the Naval Stores Department from 1934 until 1947, the year of his death. [REDACTED] stated that as he recalls, STAPLER worked entirely on textile development. STAPLER's principal duty, according to [REDACTED], was calling on various firms in the textile industry in an effort to further the use of pine oil. He pointed out that STAPLER traveled extensively and would have had very complete information concerning the textile industry. He said that STAPLER probably contacted most of the textile plants and firms in the eastern United States in connection with his work.

[REDACTED] stated that STAPLER had access to the Technical Service Trade Reports and in this respect all new developments engaged in by the Hercules Company were available to STAPLER. According to [REDACTED] no information carrying a Government classification was

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contained in these Trade Reports and as far as he knows, STAPLER had no access to any confidential material.

Available progress reports prepared by STAPLER in 1944 and 1945 reflect that he was engaged only in the field of textiles, particularly along the lines of the use of pine oil, moth-proofing of textiles, shrink-proofing of textiles, improving cloth for textile lamination, crease-proofing of rayon, and ink solvents. His 1946 Progress Report disclosed that he was interested in the development of "Resin-Amine D". [REDACTED] advised that this was also in connection with textile development. [REDACTED] stated that during the period 1943 to 1947, STAPLER's earnings were in excess of \$400.00 per month and that in 1947, his earnings increased to a sum above \$500.00 per month. b7C b7d

b7C b7d [REDACTED] Hercules Powder Company, advised that she was acquainted with WILLIAM STAPLER during his employment at the Hercules Company. She stated that her acquaintanceship consisted of seeing STAPLER occasionally when he visited the Experiment Station in connection with his work as a technical service man in the Naval Stores Department. She stated that STAPLER's position required that he travel extensively. She pointed out that to the best of her knowledge, STAPLER's efforts were devoted to the use of pine oil and pine oil products in the textile industry. She cannot recall STAPLER's making any unusual requests for any particular type of information or material at the library. b7C b7d

By way of explanation, [REDACTED] pointed out that the Naval Stores Department of the Hercules Powder Company is not associated with any Naval function as the name would imply but rather has to do with the development of products based on resin, turpentine and pine oil. b7C b7d

[REDACTED] stated that she has a vague recollection that at one time STAPLER was interested in minerals. She could not remember exactly when he was interested and could offer no specific information to indicate that there was any particular significance to this fact. She explained, however, that pine oil is used to separate minerals from slag. [REDACTED] stated that to the best of her knowledge, STAPLER had no access to any Government classified material. b7C b7d

b7C b7d [REDACTED] of the Hercules Powder Company, advised that she did not know WILLIAM W. STAPLER.

[REDACTED]
Hercules Powder Company, who is in charge of the Hopewell Reports at the Technical Library, advised that she knew STAPLER during the time of his employment at the Hercules Powder Company in Wilmington. She stated that she had gone out to dinner with STAPLER on several occasions and that STAPLER frequently stopped at her house and talked to her for long periods of time. She claimed that STAPLER, in his attempts to entertain her and to become friendly with her, made himself obnoxious. She stated that she recalls that STAPLER had a "girl friend" in the Methodist Hospital in Philadelphia, whom she believes is a nurse but she does not know this individual's name nor can she furnish any further information concerning her.

67C b7d
With the assistance of [REDACTED] a check of all available charge-out cards for the Hopewell Reports was made. The search revealed that only two charge-out cards for the period August, 1931 to September 5, 1945, reflected that Hopewell Reports had been charged out by STAPLER. The charge-out cards reflected that Hopewell Reports #52 and #65 were charged out to STAPLER. Report #52 pertained to "cooking cotton linters with detergents". Report #65 pertained to cotton cellulose purification on a small scale. A check of all of the Hopewell files at the Technical Library revealed no additional charge-out record for STAPLER.

67C b7d
[REDACTED] stated that none of the Hopewell Reports contained any Government restricted information. She said that she cannot recall STAPLER's ever making any unusual requests for files and that he could have charged out files for extended periods of time as a routine procedure.

67C b7d
[REDACTED] advised that they do not recall STAPLER's ever having charged out any of the Hopewell Reports at the Experiment Station Library. They informed the Agent that no charge-out cards are retained at the Experiment Station Library. They further advised that the files maintained at the Experiment Station are copies of those which are maintained in the custody of [REDACTED] at the Technical Library at the Hercules Company.

67C b7d
Mrs. A. STANLEY AYERS, nee MARGERY STAPLER, sister of WILLIAM W. STAPLER, was interviewed on June 21, 1950, at her residence at 1706 Woodlawn Avenue, Wilmington, Delaware. Also present was her husband, A. STANLEY AYERS, Secretary-Treasurer of Woodlawn Trustees, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware. They advised that WILLIAM W. STAPLER, with the exception of about three weeks in 1934, never lived with

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them while he was in Wilmington. They explained that his home was in Riverdale, New Jersey; but that when he was in Wilmington, he usually stayed at the home of another sister, EDITH STAPLER, who is presently in a nursing home in Pennsylvania. They stated that they had none of STAPLER's personal effects and were of the impression that all of his possessions are with his wife, ETHEL, in New Jersey. Mr. and Mrs. AYERS expressed a desire to cooperate in any way possible in this investigation but stated that they have no information or material which would throw any light on STAPLER's activities or contacts.

Mr. and Mrs. AYERS stated that to the best of their knowledge, STAPLER worked principally in the field of textiles, pine oil and pine oil products, while he was employed at the Hercules Powder Company. They mentioned the fact that STAPLER traveled a great deal in connection with his work.

The AYERS advised that during the first World War, STAPLER was employed by the Dupont Company at Wilmington, Delaware, and following this, he was employed a short time by a Mr. (fnu) WILSON who was in the advertising business in New York City. It is their recollection that at this time, STAPLER was doing some work in plastics. Following this, STAPLER, according to the AYERS, traded in real estate in New Jersey from time to time until he was employed by the Hercules Company in 1933. Mr. and Mrs. AYERS informed the interviewing Agent that STAPLER's wife never came to Wilmington, Delaware, to live even though her husband's employment was in that city. They stated that they had only occasional contact with STAPLER's wife and son, WILLIAM MEAD STAPLER. In regard to STAPLER's son, Mr. and Mrs. AYERS advised that the son was interested in aviation and they believed that he was employed by the Kellogg Engineering Company in Newark, New Jersey, doing some type of experimental work in connection with aviation. Mr. and Mrs. AYERS were unable to furnish any additional information regarding STAPLER or his family.

b7d [REDACTED] E. I. Dupont de Nemours and Company, Inc., verified the fact that STAPLER was employed as a chemist at the Dupont Company at one time. He made available the employment record for STAPLER which reflects that the latter was employed as a chemist from August, 1915, to November 11, 1920, at which time he was laid off because of lack of work. This record reflects that STAPLER's birth date was November, 1889, and disclosed that he received a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Illinois in 1915. The file reflects that STAPLER stated that prior to coming to the Dupont Company, he did analytical and research work in dyestuffs. He listed previous

BA 65-1751

employment in the Pennsylvania Steel Company, Steelton, Pennsylvania, as a stenographer for one year; with Pusey and Jones Company, Wilmington, for six months; and three months as a stenographer for the Senate of the Delaware State Legislature during the 1910 session, apparently acting as stenographer for one GEORGE W. SPARKS. The file contained no additional information.

The records of the Health Department, Wilmington, Delaware, contain a birth certificate for STAPLER reflecting his full name as WILLIAM WEBB STAPLER. The complete birth data corresponds with that reflected in the Hercules Powder Company records, as set forth previously in this report.

The files of the Credit Bureau of Wilmington, Inc., contained no information concerning STAPLER.

The files of the Wilmington Police Department contained no record for WILLIAM W. STAPLER.

* REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

65-59181-77

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

The information contained in the investigative section of this report has been furnished previously to the Bureau and interested offices by teletypes on various dates. It is noted that the photographs of BLACK displayed to WHITTAKER CHAMBERS included pictures contained in the motion picture film forwarded to Baltimore by Philadelphia letter to the Bureau, Baltimore and New York dated June 5, 1950.

Reference is made to Philadelphia teletype to the Bureau, New York, Newark and Baltimore, dated June 3, 1950 containing a lead for the Baltimore Office to advise of logical plants in the vicinity of New Castle, Delaware, in which BLACK might have been interested, as well as any logical co-conspirators whose names could be obtained. This lead was based on information furnished by HARRY GOLD to the effect that BLACK made regular trips to New Castle, Delaware, in 1940 to obtain information. Investigation was conducted in the vicinity of New Castle, Delaware, and it was ascertained that the only plant in which BLACK, as a chemist, might have been interested, would apparently have been the Delaware Rayon Company.

The Baltimore Office furnished the Bureau, New York and Philadelphia this information by teletype dated June 5, 1950, and at the same time advised that another plant located at Wilmington, Delaware, in the vicinity of New Castle, is the Minquadales Research Pest Control Laboratory, operated by the Dupont Company, which employs several chemists. The teletype advised, however, that the Biochemical Research Foundation, Franklin Institute endowed, located at Newark, Delaware, appeared to be the most logical location in which BLACK may have been interested. It is noted that this Foundation was formerly located at Philadelphia and began operation at Newark, Delaware, in 1940. During this investigation, inquiries were made at hotels at New Castle and Wilmington for possible information concerning BLACK during the years 1940 or 1941, but no records were available.

The Bureau and interested offices were further advised that the Baltimore Office would endeavor to obtain, as soon as possible, a list of chemists at the Biochemical Research Foundation for sources of possible contacts of BLACK. The investigation at New Castle, Delaware was discontinued in view of subsequent developments in instant case, as reflected in Philadelphia teletype to the Bureau, New York, Newark and Baltimore on June 16, 1950, regarding BLACK's Delaware contact, WILLIAM W. STAPLER.

65-5981-77

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Photographs of handwriting and handprinting which apparently is that of STAPLER, were obtained from his personnel file at the Hercules Company and were forwarded to the Bureau by Baltimore letter dated June 16, 1950. Film containing photographs of STAPLER obtained at the Hercules Company, was also sent to the Bureau for development and printing by Baltimore letter dated June 16, 1950. The Bureau was requested to furnish interested offices copies of STAPLER's photograph.

A copy of this report is being designated for the Washington Field Office inasmuch as the report of SA LOUIS G. TURNER, Newark, dated June 12, 1950, reflects that Washington Field has an interest in this case.

REFERENCE: Philadelphia teletypes to the Bureau, New York, Newark and Baltimore dated June 2, June 3, June 16, June 17 and June 27, 1950.

Baltimore teletypes to the Bureau, Philadelphia, Newark and New York dated June 4, June 16, June 21 and June 28, 1950.

Baltimore teletype to Bureau, New York and Philadelphia dated June 5, 1950.

Baltimore teletype to the Bureau, Newark and Philadelphia, dated June 21, 1950.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

FILE NO. 65-1751

REPORT MADE AT Baltimore, Md.	DATE WHEN MADE 7-7-50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-4,5,6,16-22, 27-50	REPORT MADE BY JOSEPH C. TRAINOR : AC
TITLE THOMAS L. BLACK, was. Tasso Lessing Black, Lessing Black, "Doc"			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject unknown to WHITTAKER CHAMBERS. Records of the Dupont Co., Wilmington, Del, contain no record of an employment application for BLACK. Records of Hercules Powder Co., Wilmington, Del, reflect that WILLIAM W. STAPLER, identified as a contact of BLACK, was employed as a chemist from November, 1933, until his death 8-15-47. Background information re STAPLER set out. Check of records of Technical Library, Hercules Powder Company, revealed only two charge-out cards for period 8/31 to 9/45, which cards reflected that Hopewell Reports were charged out to STAPLER. [REDACTED] b7c b7d

[REDACTED] a social acquaintance of STAPLER, advised she does not recall any unusual request made by STAPLER for files. She further advised that none of the Hopewell Reports contained any Government restricted information. Other Library employees and a Hercules Company official advise that they do not recall STAPLER's having had access to any Government classified material. Mr. and Mrs. A. STANLEY AYERS, brother-in-law and sister of STAPLER, interviewed. They state they can furnish no information regarding STAPLER's activities or contacts.

- R U C -

APPROVED AND FORWARDED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
		65	59181	77
COPIES OF THIS REPORT				
5 - Bureau				
3 - Newark (65-4074)				
3 - New York (65-15338)				
3 - Philadelphia (65-4332)				
1 - Washington Field - info.				
3 - Baltimore				

PROPERTY OF FBI - This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was:
Espionage - R

DATE: July 10, 1950

Rerep SA WILLIAM C. TOWER dated 6-26-50 at Seattle, Washington, and Seattle letter dated 6-26-50. The rerep indicates that two brothers who are friends of the subject visited with SANFORD and his wife during 1944. These brothers are probably CHARLES M. and BEN FREEFIELD. CHARLES M. FREEFIELD lived with Subject Black in Newark and was a member of the SWP along with BLACK around 1938 to 1941. Both CHARLES and BEN FREEFIELD served in the Armed Forces during World War II.

There is being forwarded to the Seattle Office as an enclosure with this letter a photograph of HARRY GOLD taken in the Philadelphia FBI Office. No photographs of GOLD taken around 1938 are available to this office. BLACK, during the course of his interview, has admitted much of his past activities and dealings with the Soviets. For that reason it will not be necessary for the Seattle Office to further interview SANFORD regarding BLACK.

ERNEST SEGESSEMAN, mentioned in referenced Seattle report, has already been located and interviewed.

The Newark Office should disregard lead to interview Dr. K. T. STEIK at this time, inasmuch as BLACK admitted preparing a false report for the Russians in which he alleged Dr. KARL T. STEIK to be his source of information. This particular report dealt with STEIK'S antiseptic ointment known as Uforsan. STEIK will be interviewed at a later date regarding this allegation.

Re JORGE GURA GILGUN, there appears to be no specific reason to believe that BLACK has been connected with this individual. However he will be questioned as to whether or not he is acquainted with GILGUN.

WBW:AVM
65-4332

cc - Newark
Seattle - Enc. - AIR MAIL

RECORDED - 59

INDEXED - 59

65-59121-78

JUL 10 1950

27
E. J. Kelly

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 16 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

WA 4 PH 3 NY 3 NK 2 FROM BA 16 5-49 PM EDST

DIRECTOR AND SACS PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK AND NEWARK URGENT

THOMAS L. BLACK, WAS., ESPIONAGE R. RE PHILA TEL THIS DATE.

INVESTIGATION AT HERCULES CO., WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, REVEALS WILLIAM

W. STAPLER AS POSSIBLE IDENTICAL WITH WILLIAM MENTIONED IN REFERENCED

TEL. STAPLER ORIGINALLY EMPLOYED BY HERCULES CO., DEC ELEVEN,

THIRTYTHREE. STAPLER BORN NOVEMBER ELEVEN, EIGHTEEN EIGHTYNINE AT

WILMINGTON, DEL., HEIGHT FIVE FEET TEN, WEIGHT ONE FORTYNINE, HAIR

BROWN, EYES BROWN. STAPLER DIED AT RIVERDALE, N. J. IN FORTYSEVEN.

AT TIME OF DEATH STAPLER WAS STILL EMPLOYED BY HERCULES CO. STAPLER'S

WIFE IS ETHEL M. STAPLER, RIVERDALE, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

STAPLER'S SISTER IS EDITH STAPLER, SIX NAUGHT TWO SPRINGER STREET,

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, WITH WHOM, ACCORDING TO HERCULES FILES, STAPLER

MADE HIS HOME WHILE LOCATED AT WILMINGTON. EDITH STAPLER'S PRESENT

WHEREABOUTS NOT AS YET DETERMINED. AN AGENT FROM THE WILMINGTON RESI-

DENT AGENCY WILL REPORT TO THE PHILA.

OFFICE THIS DATE WITH PHOTOS OF STAPLER TO BE DISPLAYED TO HARRY L.

BLACK. NEWARK, NEW YORK CITY, AND BUREAU CHECK INDICES ON STAPLER

AND SUTEL RESULTS PHILA. BALTO INDICES NEGATIVE

MC FARLIN

END COPIES DESTROYED

847 NOV 81 1960

ACK PLSP

WA ZA R 4 WA LEA

PH QFOURTH LINE FROM BOTTOM IT IS PILED UP AT END

PLS REPEAT 14 TH LINE

HOLD LINE PLSQ DENT AGENCY WILL REPORT TO THE PHILA.

OK AND DOES THAT TI E IN WITH NEXT LINE WHICH READS "OFFICE THIS

BATE WITH " ETC. YES IT READS RITE OR

K PH BA R 3 PH LPH

NY BA R 3 NY

NK BA R 2 NK CEG

INITIALS PLS NY JJMV

RECORDED 59 165-59191-29
JUL 11 1950

Handwritten notes:
for index search
re: [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

SERVICE UNIT

4-22a

SEARCH SLIP

Supervisor BurdRoom 2244Subj: Wm W. Stapler☐ Exact Spelling

Searchers

☒ All ReferencesInitial Full☐ Subversive Ref.Date 6-28☐ Mail File☐ Restricted to Locality of _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIALS

I 61-7574-651Wm StaplerNR 25-249135I 65-9932-10W. W. StaplerNR 65-2230-4W. StaplerNR"Omi" StaplerNR 100-10455NR 61-7566-1968NR 40-5565-2NR 62-42019-1NR 26-40795-23NR 108-1911-2,NR 100-48658-2Initialed Full

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
NAME <i>Stapler, William Mead</i>												SB	
DATE <i>6-29-50</i>												SEARCHER # <i>9117</i>	
100	65	62	61	MISC	SUB & SERIAL NUMBERS								
					<i>N.R.</i>								
					<i>Stapler, William Mead</i>								
					<i>N.R.</i>								
					<i>Stapler, William M.</i>								
					<i>N.R.</i>								
					<i>Stapler William</i>								
				<i>23</i>	<i>L.T. 49135</i>								
	<i>2</i>				<i>L.T. 9932-10</i>								
					<i>Stapler, W. Mead</i>								
					<i>N.R.</i>								
					<i>Stapler W. Mead</i>								
					<i>N.R.</i>								
					<i>Stapler W. M.</i>								
					<i>N.R.</i>								
					<i>Stapler W.</i>								
					<i>N.R.</i>								
					<i>Stapler Meader</i>								
					<i>N.R.</i>								
					<i>Stapler Mead</i>								
					<i>N.R.</i>								

[illegible]

SAC, Philadelphia

July 6, 1950

Director, FBI

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.,
ESPIONAGE - R

65-59181-79

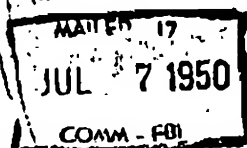
Re Baltimore tel June 16, 1950, requesting a check of the Bureau indices on William W. Stapler.

ESPIONAGE - R

A report of Special Agent Paul W. Haviland dated August 30, 1941, at Baltimore, re Armand Labis Feldman, was., et al., Bufile [REDACTED] -7574, reflects that the E. I. duPont de Nemours and Company, Wilmington, Delaware, reported that they had no record of Gaik Ovakimian contacting the company. However, their records reflected that in October, 1938, Paul K. Laurence of the Organic Chemical Department had advised the company that he had been contacted by a man, whom he did not name, who had informed Laurence that he had been approached by a man named George connected with the Rockefeller Institute who offered Laurence's informant a job in Russia. Laurence's informant also claimed that the Rockefeller Institute wanted to purchase trade information from him, such as secret processes used. Laurence's informant also said that George had indicated that information was being obtained by them from an official of the dePont Company.

b7c [REDACTED] duPont Company, confidentially advised that because their file was so jumbled and incomplete concerning this matter that they would reinterview Mr. Laurence. Upon reinterview Laurence advised that he could not remember the details very well but that in about August or September, 1938, he ran across an old acquaintance with whom he had been employed previously at the duPont Dye Works. This person had left the duPont Company several years previously and had harbored a grudge against the company ever since. Laurence's acquaintance advised that he was then "free lancing", acting as a consultant for miscellaneous clients and selling information to various parties, some of whom were foreign governments. Laurence's informant also advised "he had been selling a good bit of information and on one occasion had been told by the Rockefeller crowd that they had paid as much as \$22,000 for technical data. This information was given to a Russian whose first name was 'George', then employed by the Rockefeller Institute in New York City; that the Rockefeller Institute employment of 'George' was largely a blind and that 'George' in reality was an agent of the Soviet Government. He also informed Laurence that 'George' had a contact in the duPont Company, inferring that it was a high-up official, from whom 'George' was obtaining information on duPont chemical processes."

cc - SAC, Baltimore
SAC, Newark



The duPont Company decided they had no right to force Laurence to divulge the identity of his acquaintance. In this connection [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of the duPont Company confidentially advised that he recalled one Otto Allemann, a Swiss chemist who had been identified with the German Dye Industry prior to World War I and later with the Swiss and British Chemical Interests prior to his employment by the duPont Company in 1919. Allemann had resigned from the duPont Company in 1934 or 1935 to accept a position with the Soviet Government in Russia. This source recalled that Allemann's wife, Else, had remained in Wilmington for about a year after her husband had gone to Russia and had said that he had secured his Soviet job through someone named Ovakimian, or someone who preceded him who had some connection with either the Rockefeller Institute or the Amtorg Trading Corporation. This source also recalled that Else Allemann had mentioned a person named Smolianoff as having some connection with the deal by which Allemann went to Russia. This source stated it was his best recollection that Smolianoff had either preceded or succeeded Ovakimian at either the Rockefeller Institute or with the Amtorg Trading Corporation. This source said that Allemann had been suspected as being the type of person who would sell confidential information. He pointed out that Allemann had first resigned from the duPont Company in about 1929 after he had made about a quarter of a million dollars in the stock market and that following the stock market crash, in which Allemann lost heavily, he re-applied to the duPont Company.

When Laurence was contacted by the Bureau, he identified the informant as William W. Stapler, who was then living in North Jersey and employed by the Hercules Powder Company. Laurence stated that Stapler had been let out during the 1921 depression and had not had a job of any consequence until he became employed by the Hercules Powder Company "about five years ago." He stated that Stapler had been born and raised in Wilmington and that he considered Stapler "a one hundred per cent patriotic American" and a man of very high integrity.

It would appear that the "George" who contacted William W. Stapler is possibly identical with Gaik Ovakimian, known Soviet agent.

The report of Special Agent L. Frederick Ratterman dated November 27, 1942, at Newark re "Hans Gropp, was., [REDACTED] Bufile [REDACTED]-9932-10, reflects that the [REDACTED] interviewed a Fordham J. Walsh, Cedarhill Road, Riverdale, New Jersey, in connection with a complaint made on or about [REDACTED]

67d
Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

June 2, 1942, concerning Walsh's reported suspicious activities of a pro-Nazi nature at the Triangle Grill on Route 23, Pequannock, New Jersey. Walsh advised that he was President of the Chemical Specialties and Research Corp., 50 Church Street, Montclair, New Jersey, which had been formed "about a year ago" and that Mr. and Mrs. William Stapler and John D. Brown, a lawyer at Montclair, New Jersey, were associated with him in this business. Walsh explained that he was promoting a formula for the removal of carbon from combustion engines, which he had offered to the Government as well as about a dozen other mechanical and chemical devices, none of which had been accepted. [redacted] investigation "encountered some evidence that Walsh is interested in Stapler's wife in other than business matters and takes advantage of Stapler's absences during the week (at Wilmington, Delaware) to take his wife out, presumably on business affairs."

672 [redacted] investigator considered Walsh to be entirely loyal and not connected in any way with subversive elements. Further, that there was no evidence of subversive activities at the Triangle Grill owned by Hans Gropp, but that reports of such activities emanated from good intentioned but misinformed citizens primarily because it was a gathering place for Germans.

It might be noted that the investigation of Gropp was initiated in 1940 by the Newark Office on the basis of a complaint that Gropp's business establishment had a peculiar wiring arrangement. No evidence of subversive activities was uncovered and the case was closed by Newark report dated March 9, 1940. This case was re-opened in December, 1940, on the basis of an anonymous communication to the Bureau which alleged that Gropp's Tavern was a meeting place of foreign agents. This case was closed by Newark report dated January 27, 1944, since the investigation found no basis in fact for the complaint.

Submitted for the information of the Philadelphia, Newark, and Baltimore Offices.

No information was located in the Bureau's files which could be identified with William W. Stapler's wife, Mrs. Ethel May (Mae) Stapler, or with their son, William Mead Stapler.

65-59181-79

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI
FROM : SAC, Philadelphia

DATE: June 22, 1950

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. ELACE; was;
ESPIONAGE - R

Attention: Mechanical Section - Photographic Laboratory

In examination of the material belonging to the subject in the above case, agents of the Philadelphia Office found a number of 3" x 5" cards bearing names and addresses and various financial information. From information previously secured from BLACK, it is believed that these are names, etc., of people who were members of the Socialist Workers Party in the Newark area about 1939.

There is enclosed herewith a 25-foot roll of Kodak microfilm containing approximately 50 exposures of these cards and some slips of paper which are possibly names of subscribers to a Socialist Workers Party publication.

It is requested that the Bureau develop the enclosed film, making two prints of each frame enlarged to 8" x 10" size and send the negative and prints to the Newark Division for information in their investigation of the Socialist Workers Party in the Newark area. It is not necessary that any of this material be sent to Philadelphia.

RMH/jfm
65-4332

Enclosure (REGISTERED MAIL)

cc: ~~original~~

Adm. Div. Rec.
C. Thomas
JUL 7 1950

RECORDED - 59

65-59181-80

Jul
WR6
C2

SAC, Philadelphia

July 7, 1950

Director, FBI

Thomas L. Black, was.

Expionage - R

65-59181-86

RECORDED - 59

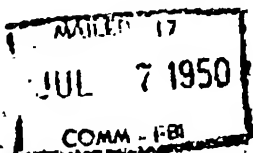
Reference is made to your letter dated June 22, 1950, transmitting one roll of film pertaining to the above-captioned matter.

In accordance with your request, prints have been made and they are being forwarded together with the film to the Newark Field Office.

cc Newark (under separate registered cover)

RCR:CT

63



10/1
SIC

10/1
SIC

65-59181-86

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES M. McINERNEY

July 6, 1950

DIRECTOR, FBI

65-59181-81
THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.

ESPIONAGE - R

(Department File 146-41-15-NEN; JLM:NEF:am)

Reference is made to your memorandum of June 30, 1950, in which you indicate that upon the basis of the information available to you prosecution does not appear to be possible.

The following additional information has been developed and is submitted for your further consideration in this matter.

On June 20, 1950, while being interviewed, subject Black related that in 1931 in New York City he met one M. Margolin whom he described as a Communist employed by the City of New York. Margolin asked Black for the names of all acquaintances who were chemists in high positions and sympathetic to the Soviet Union. Black could name only one, a Dr. Louis Christman, then Director of Research for the American Cyanamid Company who Black said was reported to be a "radical." Although not acquainted with Christman, Black arranged a meeting between Christman and Margolin. It developed, Black said, that Christman wanted to talk politics, but Margolin preferred to keep their conversation on a social level. Following their meeting, Margolin and Christman left Black's apartment together. Black advised during this interview that he suspected Margolin was involved in Soviet espionage and that Margolin used him as a means of becoming acquainted with Christman. Further investigation of Margolin and Christman is being conducted. (Phila tel 6/21/50, 12:01 AM, pages 2 and 8)

On June 21, 1950, Ferdinand Phillip Heller was interviewed at Philadelphia. He related that at his second meeting with Gaik Ovakinian in about 1934, Black accompanied Heller and told Ovakinian that he, Black, had formulations on sulphonating oils. Ovakinian replied he would have them picked up later on. Heller recalled these formulas were subsequently typed by Vera Kane on a Sunday at Kane's apartment in New York City. Kane was a close personal friend of Heller, and through Heller an acquaintance of Black. Heller explained Black had brought his handwritten notes to Kane's apartment the previous Saturday. It was Heller's belief that he himself gave Paul Petersen the formulas on Monday and that evening advised Black that he had done so. Heller admitted that included in the material he gave Petersen was some information he himself prepared regarding lacquers obtained as the result of his previous employment at the Franco-American Sugar Company. PHILA tel 6/21/50, 8:53 PM re Heller.

For your information, Vera Kane has been interviewed, and to date has denied any knowledge of the Soviet espionage activities by Heller or Black. She stated she might have done some typing for Black or Heller, but none of the material was such as that described by Heller. Further interviews with Kane are to be conducted. (NY tel 6/19/50, 11:11 PM)

ETB:hg

65-59181

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ON 1-31-78

65-59181-81

On June 21, 1950, a further interview with Black developed the following information: On March 10, 1938, while an employee of the National Oil Products Company, Black was severely burned in an explosion in that company's laboratory and was hospitalized at Kearney, New Jersey, for nineteen weeks and six days. Black stated that during his confinement he feared reprisals by the Soviets because he had not furnished information concerning the Trotskyites and the Socialist Workers Party as he had been instructed to do. About one month before his release from the hospital he was visited by a man who introduced himself as Dr. Schwartz, a physician and friend of "Jack." Schwartz was very solicitous for Black's physical condition and offered him financial assistance to insure his complete recuperation and provide for a period of rest thereafter. Black stated he declined these offers of money. After Black was released from the hospital, but was still confined to his home, he met with Schwartz following the latter's telephone call. Schwartz insisted that Black have the best of medical care, saying money was no object. During the interview, Black admitted accepting from Schwartz one hundred dollars in ten-dollar bills. He related that Schwartz informed him he wanted Black to take a long vacation at Schwartz' expense, advising that the cost was immaterial. Schwartz said Black was to go to Coyocan, the residence of Leon Trotsky in Mexico and there join Trotsky's household, where he was to learn all of Trotsky's habits and associates and familiarize himself with the surrounding area. Black advised he pointed out to Schwartz that his status in the Socialist Workers Party at that time was not high enough for him to undertake such an assignment, but Schwartz was adamant. However, he advised Schwartz he would make whatever arrangements he could, but realized in his own mind that the assignment was impossible for him, and accordingly, he made no attempt to carry it out. (Phila tel 6/27/50 12:47 AM)

Black subsequently identified Dr. Schwartz as Dr. Robert Rabinovich, was., who is known to this Bureau to have been in the United States from October, 1934, to December, 1936, as head of the Russian Red Cross. A reliable confidential informant learned from an official of Amtorg that Rabinovich was the head of the GPU in the United States at that time.

(Phila tel 6/28/50, 11:50 PM; 65-57981-17; [REDACTED] b7d)

To illustrate that he did not intend to endeavor to escape during the course of this investigation, Black related the following information: He learned that on the date believed to be Monday, May 22, 1950, a call for him was received in his absence at the Berg Laboratories from a "Miss Watkins." This call, Black said, was a summons from the Soviets to an

emergency meeting which he knew by prearrangement with "Jack" was to be in front of the Trans Lux Theater on Chestnut Street near 16th in Philadelphia. Black said the arrangement was made when he last saw "Jack," a year and a half ago. At that time "Jack" gave him one-half of a New York subway transfer which he was to carry to the emergency meeting as a means of identifying himself to the person who would contact him. Black said he has since destroyed his portion of the transfer. He asserted that he did not go to the meeting, but believes its purpose was either to warn him of Gold's impending arrest or to dispose of him. (Phila tel 8/22/50, 12:47 AM)

Black was again interviewed on June 22, 1950, and the following information was developed. He referred to his contact in 1939 with Dr. William Flosdorff, which is described in my memorandum to you of June 26, 1950. Black qualified his previous information by pointing out that Flosdorff had had previous dealings with the Russian Red Cross and that "Jack's" instruction to him was to find out if Flosdorff was going to work again with the Russian Red Cross. In a previous interview Black stated "Jack" had told him Dr. Flosdorff had worked with Amtorg and that he desired Black to inquire if Flosdorff would work with Amtorg again. Black, on June 22, 1950, continued that upon contacting Flosdorff the latter said he had had previous dealings with the Russian Red Cross and was willing to discuss the matter further with a representative.

With respect to a convention of the Socialist Workers Party which Black said he attended in Chicago in 1939, he advised "Jack" had instructed him to get himself elected as a delegate. Black asserted he made no efforts in this regard and when he told "Jack" he was going to the convention only as a member and visitor, "Jack" said Black would receive no expense money, since as a visitor he would not be entitled to vote in the caucuses nor to speak. After the convention Black reported to "Jack" only on the agenda of the convention since "Jack" previously had told him other Soviet delegates would report as to who was present. "Jack" reimbursed Black for expenses incurred in entertaining other Socialist Workers Party members, but did not reimburse him for his rail fare or hotel bill.

Referenced memorandum of June 26, 1950, reflects information received from Harry Gold on June 15, 1950, concerning a rust-proofing process which Gold said Black furnished to the Soviets in 1940. In this connection, during the interview with Black on June 22, 1950, he

related that in 1939 Ferdinand Phillip Heller told him of finding in the American Chemical Paint Company files an unanswered letter from Amtorg which requested from the American Chemical Paint Company information concerning thermoil gramadin, known commonly as the Parkerizing Process. Heller asked if Black could arrange for the Soviets to be given the information they desired as indicated in the letter. Black explained to Heller that the thermoil gramadin process was an old one for which a new use had been discovered and concerned a treatment of bearing surfaces to shorten the breaking period. Black agreed to transmit the information to the Soviets and Heller produced the patent information and formula written on a library card, together with instructions for use. Black informed that he and Heller wrote up this information in intelligible form, the final report of which was typed by Vera Kane, and was given by Black to "Jack" sometime later, in a Child's Restaurant in New York City. Black stated he believed the report probably was captioned "Trust-proofing Process," and stated he received no compensation for it. (Phila tel 6/23/50, 12:10 AM)

Black was interviewed further on June 23, 1950, and advised as follows: In approximately 1941 the Soviets seemed to lose interest in the Socialist Workers Party following the death of Leon Trotsky on August 20, 1940. Instead, "Jack" pressed Black to secure employment in a chemical plant. At "Jack's" insistence Black furnished him in 1943 with a report on the manufacture of sorbitol from sorbose, the source of vitamin C. The report was accompanied by a culture of sorbitol. Black stated he gave the report and culture to "Jack" at the New Yorker Hotel, New York City, in the fall of 1943. The only remuneration he received was his actual expenses of eight or nine dollars, five dollars of which represented the cost of a jug to provide a container for the culture. Black stated the material for this report was secured by him from a fellow employee of the National Oil Products Company who did not know Black's purpose. (Phila tel 6/23/50, 11:50 PM)

For your information, inquiry of the National Oil Products Company has disclosed that the development and manufacture of sorbitol never was considered by that company to be classified; that research was conducted on sorbitol concerning its use in various industries but it never was developed or sold under government contract. (Phila tel 6/26/50, 2:21 PM)

As noted in my memorandum of June 16, 1950, to the Attorney General, Black, on June 15, 1950, admitted furnishing to "Jack" a detailed, written report on penicillin. During the interview of June 23, 1950, Black referred to his report on penicillin which he said was written after the public announcement of the discovery of penicillin, and advised that "Jack" paid him less than ten dollars for the report. He asserted this amount covered only his actual expenses.

Black related that after submitting the report on penicillin there followed a period of inactivity during which "Jack" principally urged Black to leave the National Oil Products Company and get a job in a key chemical plant. After Black's discharge in June, 1944, by the National Oil Products Company he lived on his income as a consultant for Fine Organics, Inc., which amounted to three thousand dollars per year. Black explained that "Jack" did not know of Black's association with Fine Organics, Inc., and assumed Black was unemployed. Accordingly, "Jack" offered him monthly payments to finance him so he could take all the time necessary to secure acceptable employment. In the interview Black admitted that for six months he accepted one hundred dollars monthly paid to him by "Jack" in cash and in small bills. According to Black, "Jack" particularly urged him to apply to the Kellogg Corporation for employment, giving him instructions as to the person to see and the story to tell, but Black advised he did not apply for such work. (Phila tel 6/23/50 11:50 PM)

Inquiry by this Bureau of the Kellogg Corporation, New York City, disclosed that no record could be located indicating subject had applied for work there. (NY tel 6/22/50, 12:16 AM)

Also, on June 23, 1950, Black informed that about two years previously, on a Spring day, he met "Jack" in New York City in response to a telephone call. "Jack" asked if Black were willing to work for him again and Black said he was. Black explained that he was afraid to openly refuse "Jack," but that he fabricated a story to "Jack" that the FBI had been inquiring about him, for which reason he believed it unwise to resume working for "Jack." He related that "Jack" agreed with him and proceeded to give him detailed instructions for a subsequent contact to be initiated by a call for him from "Miss Watkins" which would be directed to the Berg Laboratories. As noted above, Black claimed that such a call was received on May 22, 1950, by the Berg Laboratories from "Miss Watkins," but that he did not respond.

It is to be noted that in my memorandum of June 26, 1950, there is set out information received from Black concerning his contact with William Stapler, now deceased, which was arranged in 1948 by "Jack." When reinterviewed on June 26, 1950, Black said his contact with Stapler began in late 1944 and recalled that "Jack" described Stapler as "entirely mercenary." Black related that his first meeting with Stapler was in or near the Pennsylvania Station in New York City where "Jack" introduced him to Stapler as "Bob." At the meeting "Jack" instructed that thereafter Black would be Stapler's contact man and that they should make their own appointments. According to Black, Stapler told him that for the previous ten years he had been selling to the Soviets monthly progress reports of the Hercules Powder Company's plant at Hopewell, Virginia. Stapler explained that his activities in this regard started after he had gone to Amtorg in New York City with an offer to secure information and that for each of these reports he received sums ranging from one hundred dollars to one hundred fifty dollars. (Phila tel 6/27/50, 12:44 AM)

Inquiry of the Hercules Powder Company, Wilmington, Delaware, by this Bureau determined that according to charge-out records Stapler charged out Hopewell Files No. 62 and No. 65 from August, 1943, to September, 1945. File No. 62 concerned cooking cotton linters with detergents. File No. 65 concerned cotton cellulose purification on a small scale. The Administrative Assistant in charge of these reports at the Technical Library of the Hercules Powder Company advised that the Hopewell reports bore no classification. (Baltimore tel 6/28/50, 2:42 PM)

On June 26, 1950, Black told of his contacts with Abraham Brothman, concerning whom information has been furnished to you by separate memorandum reflecting Brothman's association with Harry Gold. In this interview, Black stated he first heard of Brothman in 1942 when Gold, who expected to be drafted, told Black he had a contact who was an expert on mixing machinery and continuous processes. Gold said Brothman had given him much valuable information for the Soviets and Gold wanted Black to take over this contact. Black informed, however, that he refused. He advised that in the Fall of 1944 he and Gold had a social visit with Brothman in the latter's office in Long Island City. At that time Black learned that Brothman was an expert on mixing machinery and continuous processes. Black continued that in 1947 he went with Gold one evening to Brothman's laboratory and was told Brothman was designing a penicillin production plant for Russia. Brothman offered Black a job on his project as a

consultant since Brothman needed someone who was familiar with fermentation processes. Brothman said such a job might require Black's traveling to Russia to get the plant in operation. It is Black's recollection that Brothman intimated he was being paid by the Soviets ten per cent of the cost of the plant, and that Brothman offered Black half of his proceeds. Not desiring to make the trip to Russia, Black stated he declined the offer and that Brothman did not press it further. According to Black, at the time of Brothman's being investigated by a Grand Jury in 1947, Gold said Brothman had the idea that Black was either the master mind of Soviet espionage in the United States or that Black had informed on Brothman. Black noted he had indirectly assisted Brothman in securing Brothman's employment as a consultant for the Stanton Laboratories in Philadelphia.

(Phila tel 6/27/50, 11:50 PM)

When interviewed on June 27, 1950, Black said that Gold's telephonic request from Albuquerque, New Mexico, for money was received by him after the explosion of the test atom bomb but before atom bombs were used in the war against Japan. He denied that Gold ever telephoned him from Chicago for funds and that he received any other calls from Gold from New Mexico. Black did not recall sending any funds to Gold at either Chicago or Albuquerque. He asserted that Gold, after returning from New Mexico, told him he had been sent there by the Soviets to observe the effects of the explosion of the atom bomb and that when it occurred he was hiking in some hills fifty miles away. (Phila tel 6/27/50, 11:50 PM)

A further interview with Black was conducted on June 28, 1950. He advised that in 1935 or 1936 Paul Petersen offered to send him to the California Institute of Technology for a graduate degree. Petersen proposed a liberal expense account and suggested Black take a light schedule of courses so as to prolong his attendance there. Petersen said projects being studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the California Institute of Technology were of great interest to the Soviets but the work at the latter institution was more valuable. Black advised he did not, however, apply for admission to the California Institute of Technology. (Phila tel 6/28/50, 12:15 AM)

Investigation in this matter is continuing and you will be advised of further developments. Your advice is requested as to whether the additional information furnished above, together with that previously submitted, constitutes a basis for prosecutive action.

(The above reflects review of teletypes in the case of Thomas L. Black, Esp-R, through Newark teletype 7/2/50, 12:15 AM, and of teletypes entitled Ferdinand Phillip Heller, Esp-R, through July 1, 1950)

65-59181-81

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

PHILADELPHIA

NH

FILE NO. 65-1332 md

REPORT MADE AT NEW HAVEN	DATE WHEN MADE 7/11/50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/26,30/50	REPORT MADE BY FRANCIS X. MC BRIDE
TITLE THOMAS L. BLACK, Was.			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Records American Cyanamid Research Laboratories, Stamford, Conn., reflect Dr. LUDWIG J. CHRISTMANN, aka, LOUIS, originally employed at the Warner Laboratories in Linden, N.J. on 3/1/25. CHRISTMANN transferred to Stamford, Conn. in 1937 where he is employed as Director of Basic Nitrogen Division. CHRISTMANN resides 9 Center Knolls, Bronxville 8, NY. New Haven office indices contain no information identifiable with Dr. CHRISTMANN. NH informants have furnished no information relating to activities of CHRISTMANN.			
INVESTIGATION Investigation conducted by the Philadelphia office has revealed that subject THOMAS L. BLACK has advised that while in New York City in 1931 he was requested by one M. MARGOLIN to furnish the identity of all his acquaintances who were chemists in high positions and who are sympathetic to the Soviet Union. Subject BLACK recalled one Dr. LOUIS CHRISTMANN, who was then Director of Research for the American Cyanamid Corporation. BLACK has advised that he was not acquainted with CHRISTMANN but made arrangements for CHRISTMANN to meet with M. MARGOLIN at his, BLACK'S, apartment.			
DETAILS: [REDACTED] American Cyanamid Research Laboratories, 1937 West Main St., Stamford, Conn., advised that the main personnel file relating to Dr. CHRISTMANN is retained by the Cyanamid Corp.'s New York office at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City. [REDACTED] pointed out that information available at Stamford indicates that Dr. LUDWIG J. CHRISTMANN, who is also known as LOUIS, was originally employed on 3/1/25 as a research			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES DESTROYED NOV 21 1960 5-Bureau 1-Newark (info)(65-4074) 3-New York (65-15338) (info) 3-Philadelphia (65-4332) 2-New Haven		65-59181-82 JUL 13 1950 24 FIVE STAT. SEC.	

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NH 65-1332

chemist to work for Warner's Laboratories in Linden, New Jersey. CHRISTMANN was transferred to the Stamford Laboratories about 1937. He is now serving as Director of the Basic Nitrogen Division. [REDACTED] advised that Dr. CHRISTMANN currently resides at 9 Center Knolls, Bronxville, 8, New York City, telephone Beverly 7-6950. She pointed out that to the best of her recollection, Dr. CHRISTMANN has at no time ever resided in the state of Connecticut. b7d b7c

On 6/30/50 the Stamford, Conn. "Advocate" newspaper carried a news clipping entitled "Long Service Employees of the Cyanamid Co. Feted at Dinner Meet". The newspaper clipping revealed that LUDWIG J. CHRISTMANN was one of several recipients of a 25 year service emblem award made on the evening of 6/29/50 at the Piccadilly Restaurant in Stamford.

The New Haven office indices contain no current identifiable information relating to Dr. LUDWIG J. CHRISTMANN, also known as LOUIS CHRISTMANN.

37d
~~122~~
New Haven Confidential Informants T-1, T-2, T-3, T-4, T-5, and T-6 all of known reliability and all of whom are in a position to possession information relating to [REDACTED] have furnished no information relating to Dr. LUDWIG J. CHRISTMANN.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

ADMINISTRATIVE

On 6/26/50 [REDACTED] American Cyanamid Research Laboratories, made available a photograph of Dr. CHRISTMANN, which was taken in the fall of 1946 for a publication prepared by the American Cyanamid Laboratories in Stamford. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that the latter's photograph is a true likeness of the individual and that his appearance has not changed to any degree during the past 15 years. The photograph in question was forwarded to the Philadelphia office by the New Haven letter to the Bureau dated 6/27/50, copy of which was designated for Philadelphia.

Dr. JOHN D. ROBINSON, an employee of the American Cyanamid Laboratories, advised SA FRANCIS X. MC BRIDE, while referring to the dinner which was held for long-service employees of Cyanamid in Stamford, Conn. on 6/29/50 that Dr. LUDWIG J. CHRISTMANN is a "character", and indicated that CHRISTMANN can usually be found on Thursday of each week getting drunk at the Chemist's Club in New York City. Dr. ROBINSON was not questioned concerning his reference to CHRISTMANN as a "character" in view of the fact that ROBINSON is not aware of the Bureau's interest in Dr. CHRISTMANN.

It is to be noted that the investigative section of instant report reflects that the New Haven office indices contain no current identifiable information relating to Dr. CHRISTMANN. The word "current" has been used in view of the fact that there is one possible reference to Dr. CHRISTMANN in a plant informant file in the 99 classification, which file has been destroyed in accordance with Bureau policy.

Copies of instant report have been furnished Newark and New York for information in view of subject's former employment in New Jersey and current residence in New York. No investigation is being requested by these offices.

NH 65-1332

INFORMANTS

In the report of SA FRANCIS X. MC BRIDE dated 7/11/50 at New Haven the following informants were utilized:

T-1 CNHT-29

T-2 CNHM-29

T-3 [REDACTED]

T-4 [REDACTED]

T-5 [REDACTED]

T-6 [REDACTED]

b7d

REFERENCE: New York teletype to New Haven, 6/23/50

65-59181-82

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

PHILADELPHIA

NH

FILE NO. 65-1332 md

REPORT MADE AT NEW HAVEN	DATE WHEN MADE 7/11/50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/26,30/50	REPORT MADE BY FRANCIS X. MC BRIDE
TITLE THOMAS L. BLACK, Was.			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Records American Cyanamid Research Laboratories, Stamford, Conn., reflect Dr. LUDWIG J. CHRISTMANN, aka, LOUIS, originally employed at the Warner Laboratories in Linden, N.J. on 3/1/25. CHRISTMANN transferred to Stamford, Conn. in 1937 where he is employed as Director of Basic Nitrogen Division. CHRISTMANN resides 9 Center Knolls, Bronxville 8, NY. New Haven office indices contain no information identifiable with Dr. CHRISTMANN. NH informants have furnished no information relating to activities of CHRISTMANN.

RUC

DETAILS:

Investigation conducted by the Philadelphia office has revealed that subject THOMAS L. BLACK has advised that while in New York City in 1931 he was requested by one M. MARGOLIN to furnish the identity of all his acquaintances who were chemists in high positions and who are sympathetic to the Soviet Union. Subject BLACK recalled one Dr. LOUIS CHRISTMANN, who was then Director of Research for the American Cyanamid Corporation. BLACK has advised that he was not acquainted with CHRISTMANN but made arrangements for CHRISTMANN to meet with M. MARGOLIN at his, BLACK'S, apartment.

57d [redacted] American Cyanamid Research Laboratories, 1937 West Main St., Stamford, Conn., advised that the main personnel file relating to Dr. CHRISTMANN is retained by the Cyanamid Corp.'s New York office at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City. *57d* [redacted] pointed out that information available at Stamford indicates that Dr. LUDWIG J. CHRISTMANN, who is also known as LOUIS, was originally employed on 3/1/25 as a research

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
		65	59181	82
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		PROPERTY OF FBI		
5-Bureau		This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned.		
1-Newark (info)(65-4074)				
3-New York (65-15338)(info)				
3-Philadelphia (65-4332)				
2-New Haven				

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: June 7, 1950

FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA

(10)

Leather

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was,
ESPIONAGE - R

Re mylet 6/3/50 to which was attached a copy of the signed statement executed by HARRY GOLD, dated 6/2/50, containing information concerning the above captioned subject.

Attached hereto for the use of the Bureau and the New York Office are copies of the signed statement taken from HARRY GOLD, dated June 4, 1950, and June 5, 1950, concerning the above captioned subject.

The Bureau's attention is directed to Philadelphia teletype dated 6/4/50 wherein the Philadelphia office set forth the pertinent portions of the signed statement taken from HARRY GOLD on that date.

WRW/jgb
65-4332
Enclosures

(Special Delivery)

cc: New York (Enclosures)

[Handwritten signature]

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

EX-3

1 copy of same filed with copy

RECORDED - 85

65-59181-83

JUN 10 15 23 PM '50
EX-3
RECEIVED

[Handwritten initials]

AUG 10 1950

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 65-57449-621

June 4, 1950
Philadelphia, Penna.

"I, HARRY GOLD, make the following voluntary statement to T. SCOTT MILLER, JR., and RICHARD E. BRENNAN, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of The Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made to me, and I have been advised that any statement I make may be used against me in a Court of Law, and that I do not have to make any statement at all. I have been advised that I have the right to counsel.

"In addition to statement which I gave on June 2, 1950, concerning THOMAS L. BLACK, I wish to make the following additions thereto.

"Sometime in early 1942, the Soviet Union was interested in getting information on penicillin, I believe, and BLACK was attempting to get this information for the Soviet Union. It is my impression that from talks I had with BLACK that during the early 1940's BLACK, in general, was engaged in obtaining information on biologicals for the Soviet Union. In this connection, BLACK took trips to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; New Castle, Delaware; and Chicago, Illinois. He turned over the information he received on these trips to representatives of the Soviet Union, in New York City.

"On occasions it was necessary for me to borrow money in order to finance my espionage activities. On occasions I would borrow this money from BLACK, since he would not ask any questions as to why I needed it. BLACK knew that I was engaged in Soviet espionage. I told BLACK in 1945 that I had been to the southwestern part of the United States in connection with my activities on behalf of the Soviet Union, and told him that I was having trouble getting time off to make my second trip to the Southwest. BLACK knew that this was an important assignment that I was on, but he knew no details whatever.

"As I recall, it was on a Friday in February of this year that KLAUS FUCHS' name appeared in the papers, and the news of his arrest in England. On the following Monday, I met TOM BLACK, and we went for a walk. During this walk I told BLACK that I was

the person to whom FUCHS gave information for transfer to the Soviets.

"BLACK and I then decided that in the future we would meet only at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. This arrangement was agreed upon by both of us, since there would be no suspicion attached to our meeting at this place. This arrangement was made so that if I was picked up, BLACK would not be discovered.

"Also, at the time that I told BLACK about my connection with KLAUS FUCHS, he was horror-stricken, but he did not express any concern at being himself implicated or involved because of his known friendship for me; his principal concern seemed to be for my welfare.

"I have read the above statement consisting of this and two additional pages and am signing each page as all the information contained therein is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ "HARRY GOLD
Philadelphia, Penna.
June 4, 1950."

Witnessed:

T. SCOTT MILLER, JR.
Special Agent - F.B.I. Justice
Phila., Penna., June 4, 1950.

RICHARD E. BRENNAN
Special Agent, F.B.I., Justice
Philadelphia, Penna.
June 4, 1950.

65-59181-83

"June 5, 1950
Philadelphia, Pa.

"I, HARRY GOLD, make the following voluntary statement to T. SCOTT MILLER, JR., and RICHARD E. BRENNAN, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made to me and I realize that I do not have to make any statement at all. I realize that any statement I do make may be used in a Court of Law. I have been advised that I have the right of counsel.

"This is a supplement to the statement I gave the F.B.I. on June 4, 1950, relative to THOMAS L. BLACK.

"In February of 1950, I saw BLACK shortly after the newspapers carried the story of the arrest of KLAUS FUCHS in England. The story broke on a Friday and I believe that I saw BLACK on the following Monday in Philadelphia. BLACK had read the FUCHS' story. I told him that I was the individual to whom KLAUS FUCHS gave the information on atomic energy here in the U.S. and that I had passed the information to my Soviet contact.

"I also told him that I had visited FUCHS' sister who lived here in Cambridge, Mass., and that the F.B.I. would surely locate her and that she could probably identify me. To this, BLACK said that if I was picked up or questioned, I should deny everything because it would be my word against that of another person. I don't think that I told him the name of FUCHS' sister.

"The reason BLACK was so horror-stricken when I told him of my association with FUCHS was because BLACK knew of my obtaining information for the Soviet Union and of my past activity for the Soviets. He also realized the gravity of the situation, because of the type of information I had transmitted to the Soviet Union.

"I also told BLACK that FUCHS knew me very well and could positively identify me. We even discussed the possibility that FUCHS might be brought over to the U.S. to stand trial and would point me out in a Court of Law. Here again BLACK told me that while that would be very bad, still it was essentially only FUCHS' word against mine.

My principal concern was for my family and I told BLACK were I apprehended, would he try to see them and cheer them up. Since I knew that I had completely concealed my espionage activities from my family, I knew that my arrest would be a terrific blow to them. Also, at the time that BLACK and I spoke, I was emotionally very overwrought, and was not thinking very clearly.

"In addition we speculated in great detail (I did most of the speculating) on the matter of who (or how) FUCHS might have been exposed. We came to no satisfactory conclusion whatever and BLACK thought it wiser not to continue to think about this phase of the matter.

"I have read the above statement consisting of this and two other pages, and am signing each page as all the information contained therein is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/

"HARRY GOLD
Philadelphia, Penna.
June 5, 1950."

Witnessed:

T. SCOTT MILIER, JR.
F.B.I. Justice
6-5-50, Phila., Pa.

RICHARD E. BRENNAN
Special Agent, F.B.I. Justice
June 5, 1950, Philadelphia, Pa.

Philadelphia, Penn.

June 2, 1950

I, Harry Gold, hereby make the following voluntary statement to T. Scott Miller, Jr. and Richard B. Brenman, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made me and I realize that I do not have to make any statement at all, and any statement I do make can be used against me in a court of law. I realize that I have a right to counsel.

In about Feb., 1933 I was given a position with the Holbrook Manufacturing Company in Jersey City, N.J. I took the job of Thomas L. Black who had resigned to accept another position.

Shortly thereafter I attended a Communist Party meeting in Jersey City, N.J. at Black's request, and with Black. Black attempted to get me to join the Communist Party; this attempt was in a very tentative fashion.

In the Spring or Summer of 1935, Black was employed as a chemist by the National Oil Products Co., Harrison, N.J. At that time I was employed by the Pennsylvania Sugar Company, Phila., Penn., and had continued my association with Black out of gratitude for his getting me a job during the depression. At this time Black asked me if I could get information from the Pennsylvania Sugar Company relative to processes. Black said that the Russians would be interested in getting the information. Black explained to me that he was in contact with a Russian who was with Amtorg, I believe, and that he (Black) had been giving this Russian chemical processes of the National Oil Products Co., his employer.

Black explained to me that I would have a chance in this way to help the Soviet Union along the road to industrialization. From the first time Black mentioned this, until the latter part of 1935, we had several discussions about supplying the Russians with information. We discussed how we could get material blue printed and photostated.

In the latter part of 1935 I went to New York City with Black, where he introduced me to a man by the name of Paul Smith, who was either a Russian or a Dane. We met in the vicinity of Penn. Station and shortly thereafter Black left Paul and me. Paul and I walked down 7th Ave during which time Paul told me that the Soviet Union was interested in solvents and particularly in a process involving the manufacture of absolute ethyl alcohol on which Dr. Gustav Reich, the chief chemist at Pennsylvania Sugar Company, was working. Paul set the time and place for our next meeting which was about 3 weeks later.

65-59181-84

The above contact with Paul was to begin my working for the Soviets. During my association with Paul which lasted until the early part of 1937, I furnished him with information on chemical processes, principally those used by the Franco-American Chemical Works, a subsidiary of Pennsylvania Sugar Co.

At this initial contact, Paul told me that I was never to see Black except on his (Paul's) instructions. However, throughout the years I did see Black on infrequent occasions in violation of these instructions. During one of these times Black described his Russian contact to me and I am sure that it was my Russian contact who I knew only by the name of Sam, and with whom I was associated from about 1941 to 1944 with a lapse of about 7 months from the Spring to the Fall of 1941.

On several occasions Black told me that he had lost contact with the Russians and wanted to know if I knew how he could get in touch with them. I was never able to tell him how he could do it.

During the period of 1937 to the fall of 1938 Black let drop the information that he was engaged in trying to hunt out Trotsky's principal contacts in this country; this was on behalf of the Russians.

As far as I know from what Black very infrequently may have told me, his last contact with the Russians was sometime in 1944.

The last time that I saw Black was about six weeks ago.

I have read the above statement consisting of this and three additional pages and am signing each page inasmuch as all of the statements contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Witnessed:
Richard E. Brennan
Special Agent, F.B.I., Justice
Philadelphia, Pa., June 2, 1950

/s/ Harry Gold
Philadelphia, Penna.
June 2, 1950.

T. Scott Miller, Jr.
Special Agent F.B.I. Justice
Phila., Penn, June 2, 1950.